

THE CANADIAN RAILROADER

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A TARIFF QUESTION FOR THE FARMERS
A SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW FOR
QUEBEC PROVINCE?

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

From Our Own Correspondent.

OFFICIAL ORGAN,
FIFTH SUNDAY
MEETING ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA.

MONTREAL, APRIL 3rd, 1920

Vol. 2, No. 14

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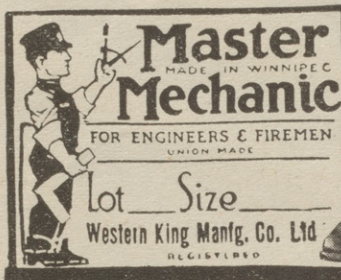
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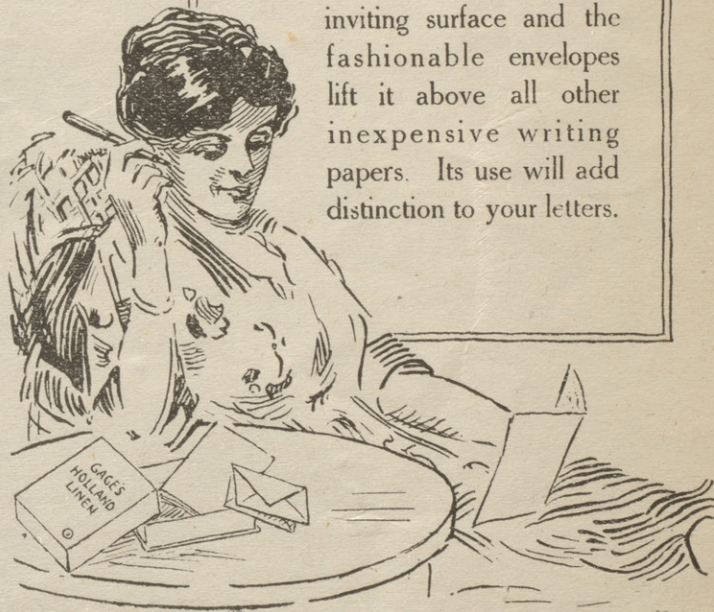
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A Tariff Question for the Farmers

(By George Pierce.)

IT is the duty of every man prominent in the political and the commercial activities of the Dominion to strive for the happiness and the contentment of the Canadian people. It is impossible for the people to be happy unless they are prosperous. That prosperity is impossible for the masses unless our industries expand and develop, admits of no argument. The total value of the products of manufacture exceeds the value of agricultural products by a considerable margin. The farmer who believes he can divorce himself from the troubles that would attend a serious slump in the industrial or manufacturing field, is beguiling himself with day-dreams. Any economist will substantiate the statement that prosperity to the one is absolutely dependent upon the prosperity of the other. It is also true that there is as much room for expansion and development in agriculture as there is in industry. It is possible to build perhaps the greatest and the grandest country in the world if we are able to bring about careful consideration of all national problems by co-operating the best brains and experience which the three predominant groups can command—the groups of labor, agriculture and manufacture.

It is evident from the records that two of these groups have reached the common ground, while the third, or farmer, group still apparently remains irreconcilable.

While the official attitude of labor for many years past has been that of free trade, the manufacturing interests have stood solidly behind the protective tariff. Generally speaking, in all political contests the farmers' allegiance was divided. Recently, trades unions throughout the country adopted the endorsement of a scientific tariff commission, not with the object of taking

the tariff out of politics, but for the purpose of taking the politics out of the tariff. Strange to say, the manufacturer has taken an equally reasonable position. Only the farmer group remains obdurate. Officially the farmers organizations advocate free trade. This was extraordinary when we began an examination of the course pursued by the farmer organizations at the time of the agitation for a tariff board in the United States.

On Tuesday 4th, 1908, Mr. N. J. Batchelor, Master of the National Grange, appeared before the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives in Washington, and it will doubtless be very interesting to the farmers of Canada to read what Mr. Batchelor had to say on that occasion. It is also very much to the point that Mr. Batchelor represented more than one million farmers on that occasion:

"Mr. Speaker, I appear here representing the farmers' organization known as the Grange. This is composed of people of all shades of political belief, Republicans, Democrats, and Prohibitionists. It has local and county and State organizations, as well as a national organization. It is an organization of about 1,000,000 members, represented in thirty States. At the annual meeting held at Hartford, last November, with representatives from twenty-six States, a resolution was unanimously adopted favoring the appointment of a nonpartisan tariff commission to consider this tariff subject. Now, I am not here, Mr. Speaker, to enlighten you or anyone else about the operation of the tariff laws, but I am here to express to you the feeling that I understand to exist among the farmers in regard to this matter. There are some things which they do not understand. They

are sceptical as to the results of some of the tariff provisions. Now, when they are told, and it is not successfully contradicted as I understand it, that farm machinery is sold in other countries cheaper than it is here, they wonder why that should be so. When they pay \$125 for a binder, and some fellow in some foreign country buys it for a less price, they do not understand why it should be that way. Then, Mr. Speaker, when it is stated that steel rails are sold to the Grand Trunk Road, and when delivered upon the side of that track located in the United States are sold for one price, and yet when delivered upon the other side of the track in Canada are sold for a less price, they do not understand quite why it is so, if it is so. I might refer to other instances of this kind.

"And then it seems to us that a commission (a tariff commission) of this kind would be able to study this question, and if these are facts, to so state to the people. If they are facts, and it is of advantage to our people to have it that way, why, so state it. If they are not facts, then have these statements contradicted. We believe that something of this kind would be of great benefit to the farming people of the country.

"Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not understand that this commission is any reflection on the ability or the fidelity of members of Congress. We understand that members of Congress have a great many duties to perform. They are not able to give the time and effort to the study of this question which it seems to us its importance demands; and then also, in addition to that, it is frequently stated that there are some members of Congress who are influenced by local conditions, that tariff schedules which have built up business in their locality would influence them in their action upon the subject. I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that that has ever been charged up against you. I think you do what you think is right regardless of the result; but that enters into it, and there are various other things which I might state. But, summing it all up, Mr. Speaker, speaking for the organization, and speaking for the farmers of the country, we believe that benefit will be derived from the appointment of such a commission, that would report to Congress, and upon whose report Congress could take such action as it saw fit in regard to the tariff schedules, some of which have been established so long that perhaps the welfare of the country would demand a change."

Permit me now to call your attention to the statement made before the same committee by Mr. S. H. Cowan, representing the National Live Stock Association:

"Mr. Speaker and Mr. Chairman, a Democrat, in the presence of so many Republicans, would ordinarily feel very much embarrassed

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were it not for the fact that they come around to us anyway in order to revise the tariff, and we have an abiding faith that that is going to be done. We do not know when it is going to be done, or whether it is going to be done in our time or not, but we at least expect it for our descendants; but when they get to revising the tariff, the people where I come from, and the people whom I represent, are afraid that somebody is going to get the best of it. It is a most difficult and complicated proposition. For example, I am representing here at this particular meeting, in connecting with Mr. Mackenzie, of Colorado, who is well known, the American National Live Stock Association, which organization takes in practically all of the organizations of live stock people west of the Mississippi River; and I also represent the Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, which, as a cattle raisers' association, is practically the only very large cattle raisers' organization in the country. It embraces the great breeding ground of the Southwest, not located merely in Texas by any means. We do not sell any cattle in Germany or France; we do not sell any dressed beef; the people who belong to the National Live Stock Association engaged in raising hogs in the great Missouri Valley do not sell all their fresh pork in Germany or France or any other continental country of Europe except Belgium.

"We meet and talk about it out there and have big conventions, and everybody goes for the party. We pass resolutions, and we say that we have understood it is because of the tariff laws in this country that we do not ship any cattle into continental Europe except to Belgium, and that we ship no dressed beef into a single continental Europe except Belgium, and no fresh pork into a single country, and sell less than \$2,500 worth of hams in France during the year. They tell us that the reason of that is because of the tariff

(Continued on page 11.)

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A School Attendance Law for Quebec?

(By W. C. R. Anderson)

It is frequently claimed that a School Attendance Law is quite unnecessary and futile. In view of the universality of School Attendance Laws in practically all the civilized countries of the earth; in view too, of the fact that where once adopted a School Attendance Law has never in modern times been repealed except to replace it by another more advanced in its terms and conditions it would seem that the burden of proof of the futility of a law regulating school attendance lies with the opponents of the measure. On the other hand it is admitted that the demonstration of the need lies with those who advocate such a measure. This demonstration has been given very fully in a pamphlet of some thirty pages issued in 1918 by The School Attendance Committee of the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers of Quebec. In the course of a visit to the State of Maine last Summer, the writer was struck with the character of the service and intelligence of the clerks in the stores and by the size of the class graduating from the High Schools. This led to inquiry and a study of statistics which you will see add considerable weight to the evidence that we in Quebec sorely need remedial measures of some kind for the guarantee of a higher general level of education for the mass of our youth.

The State of Maine, lying so close beside us, resembles Quebec in the general character of its natural resources, its basic industries, its climate, its wide areas of sparsely inhabited country, perhaps more closely than any of the other states do. It even has a not inconsiderable number of French-Canadians working in its factories and mills. But in the State of Maine the people have believed in the school as the best place for fitting the youth of the land for citizenship, for they have had a School Attendance Law for many years.

The result of such a law adequately enforced, is that the number of illiterates is extremely few; the Superintendent reporting only a few score altogether in 1918. By contrast please note that by stepping across the boundary line one comes to a country where there has been no attendance law and where there were in 1911, the year of our last census, 70,000 native-born males over 21 years of age who could not read and write.

Thirteen per cent of the children before the Juvenile Court in a recent year could not read or write. But let us turn to the enrolment figures in the city of Montreal and the city of Portland; the State of Maine and the Province of Quebec. Out of 20,000 pupils in Montreal Protestant Elementary schools in Jan. 1918, there were 1,267 in the Seventh (final) year of the course:

out of 6,800 in the Elementary Schools of Portland, 710 were in the Eighth (final) year of the course. That is in Montreal 6 per cent. in Portland 10 per cent of the Elementary enrolment were in the final year and that in spite of the fact that they have eight years to our seven.

On turning to the High School enrolment we find that in Portland 22 per cent. of those enrolled in the schools were in the High School classes, with us but 6 per cent, though we have more than double the number of pupils enrolled, they had one third (475 pupils) more in their High School classes than we with two fifths as many children attending their schools, they had more than twice as many in their Twelfth Year (their final year) as we had in the Eleventh (our final) year. In other words, out of every 100 pupils enrolled they had 5 in the last year of the High School course to every 1 we had.

If we compare the enrolments of the Province of Quebec with the State of Maine we find that the conditions are very like those for the two cities.

Two per cent. of their Elementary enrolment is in the Eighth (final) year; four per cent. of ours: nineteen per cent. of their enrolment is in High School; three per cent. of ours: out of every 100 enrolled Maine had 3 in its High School Graduating class for every 1 we had.

If then as has been said "Education is the keynote of efficiency in all that pertains to the tasks of citizenship," in which community are the citizens of the future being better and more generally prepared for the tasks of citizenship?

In which is there a greater stimulus to prepare for a career?

In which are the youth getting a better chance in life?

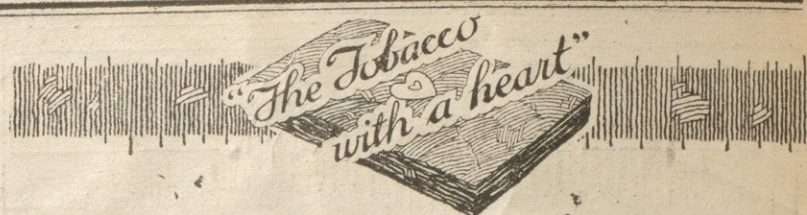
Do you want your children to have the stimulus that comes from living in a community where the general education is high? Do you want your children to have opportunities equal to those of your Maine neighbor? Who in the light of these facts can doubt that we have any need for measures that will secure a radical change in these statistics?

And now what of the obstacles to securing a School Attendance Act?

They are numerous and some of them will be removed only by a greatly stimulated interest in and realization of the importance of education: others will require time and tact to overcome the mistrust of motives.

The first is general indifference and apathy. This is partly through disbelief in the value of our schools and their curricula, partly through lack of knowledge of the facts.

It can be overcome by wide publicity and by evidence of attempts to adapt and to modify school pro-



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grammes so as better to serve the main activities of our province.

The second obstacle is fear on the part of our Roman Catholic fellow citizens that a School Attendance Act is but the entering of the wedge that shall pry them from their present control of their own schools. Any disposition by any body of non-Catholics to do away with the dual system of schools in this province neglects consideration of the established rights of both the majority and the minority to control their own school system. It is just this provision that protects us of the minority and it is just this too that assures those of the minority who are advocating a law regulating school attendance, that if the Protestants of Quebec Province really want such a measure and will demand it they cannot long be refused. On the other hand, since it is a measure conceived in the interest of the youth of our province of whatever race or religion, it would be unfortunate if its advantages and ben-

efits were confined to one section, and that the minority, of the population. Hence it is desirable that there be opportunity for those who oppose the measure to examine it from all angles; its need, its efficacy, its practicability. For we are persuaded that wherever this is done without prejudice it will result in conviction. Time and publicity, but especially publicity, are necessary.

A third obstacle is that of cost. At the present time 40 per cent. of the Protestant teachers in rural Quebec are said to be without professional training. The cause is largely because of the better opportunities in other walks of life for earning an income adequate to cover the cost of living and to provide for sickness and old age.

There is too the lure of better salaries for the rank and file of the teachers in the western provinces. A very considerable number of our Quebec teachers have gone west in the past two years: more will follow.

(Continued on page 9.)

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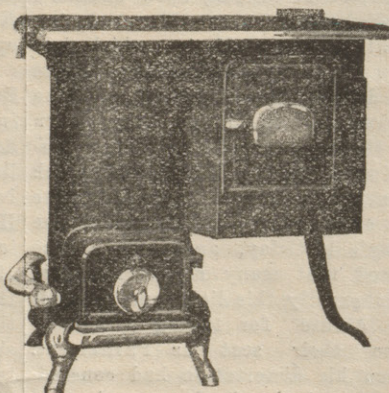
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Our OTTAWA LETTER

(From our own correspondent)

"Out of the strong came forth sweetness", and the week began with Mr. Rowell introducing bills to regulate the sale of maple sugar and honey. Dr. Edwards, of Frontenac, introduced a resolution seeking that as the farmers of Canada suffered great annual loss from the lack of systematic grading of their products, a system of grading and standardising butter and cheese should be enforced by the Government. He had evidently acquired some familiarity with the dairy business, and it must have surprised the Quebec members to find their bitterest foe giving their province credit for the best butter. A test made by the Canada Food Board, in 1918, revealed that while only 70.73 of Ontario butter tested grade No. 1, no less than 94.48 of Quebec's product reached that standard. Alberta came next with 90.26. He gave facts about the experience of Denmark and New Zealand, and incidentally, made a plea for a ban upon margarine. Dr. Edwards has a rural constituency which a U.F.O. candidate will fight hence his zeal for the honest farmer. He was backed up by a number of rural members, including Dr. Beland, but Mr. Tolmie, for the Government, threw cold water upon the project and urged that, owing to the unsettled condition of the world's markets, and the continuance of food control in Britain, the time was inopportune to introduce a grading system. Mr. Robb assailed the administration of the Wheat Board and asserted that its performances were having a bad effect upon the milling and incidentally the dairy industry of the country.

Ultimately, Dr. Edwards withdrew his motion.

On Tuesday, Mr. Ballantyne produced an account of his stewardship in regard to shipbuilding and a right proud man was he. From the glowing pride and fervor with which he unfolded his statistics in regard to the operation of the national marine and the 5½% it had earned last year, one would have thought he was a Marxian Socialist by habit and repute. The original programme called for the construction of 63 ships, ranging in size from 3,800 to 10,800 tons. Of these, twenty-four have been delivered from the builder and nineteen have been in actual commission carrying the flag and merchandise of Canada to every quarter of the earth. The average cost per ton to build has been \$191.50, but prices have been reduced since the war ended, and the later contracts range from \$167.50 to \$180 per ton. This he claimed compared favorably with the British and American prices. On the nineteen ships which were in commission, the gross earnings up to December, 31, 1919, were \$3,448,030, and the net earnings \$1,406,000. This he said, after allowing for depreciation, would provide a dividend of 5½% and leave a handsome margin. Mr. Ballantyne also dealt with his famous contract for steel plates with the Dominion Steel Corporation and left the impression that he had been exceedingly hardhearted towards them as he had insisted on cutting down the contract price after the armistice came.

The Minister asked for \$20,000,000 to complete the programme.

Dr. Michael Clark assailed the shipbuilding policy as incompatible with the maintenance of a protective tariff. A shipping business could not be sustained on an export business alone, it must have freights both ways and the tariff reduced the volume of imports as much as possible. He quoted the evidence of an American admiral before a Congress Committee, not long ago. "We had better make up our minds whether we really want a merchant marine or not. If we do want a merchant marine, there is only one straight course to having it and that is free trade." Dr. Clark also entered a stern warning against the subsidies Mr. Ballantyne had hinted at. Mr. Edmund Bristol, of Toronto, a special pleader for the shipping interests, who rarely favors the House with his presence, save the needs of his friends and employers are up for discussion, spoke to his brief in favor of the scheme and the bonuses for which he and a posse of lobbyists are so assiduously working. Mr. Bristol unfortunately has a

safe Tory seat, but he is a type of member who would not be missed from Parliament. Mr. Duff, of Lunenburg, himself has ships that float on every sea, carrying the products of Nova Scotia to the furthest ends of the earth, and has a proper claim to pose as an expert on shipping matters. He had no high opinion of the profits of 5½% of which the Minister was so proud. It had been made under Elysian conditions for shipowners which will never occur again in a century. When normal times return, the national marine will in his opinion begin to show an unfortunate deficit. Mr. Duff opined also that the government had as little right to go into the business of shipbuilding as into the manufacture of boots and candy. Mr. Mackenzie King complained that the Government, in placing its shipbuilding contracts, had neglected a rule which is both statutory and salutary, that all contracts in excess of the value of \$5,000 can only be allocated by public tender. Of a long series of speeches on the subject, the best was that of Mr. Kennedy, of Essex, who was exceedingly critical of the whole business. He made an effective analysis and criticism of some of Mr. Ballantyne's figures. Mr. Kennedy is a very able business man who has no small capacity for public affairs, and it is a great pity that he does not intervene more frequently in debates.

On Wednesday came that hardly annual, a speech by Mr. Frank Glass, of Middlesex, upon Canada's possibilities as a flaxproducing country, the efforts which had been made by enterprising spirits to develop the industry and the deplorable lack of sympathy shown by the Government to such a deserving enterprise. Mr. Glass' speech is now an annual ceremony like the adjournment for Easter or the King's birthday, and it is to be feared that many members regard it in exactly this light and make it an excuse for taking a holiday from their seat in Parliament. When his dissertation had concluded, Mr. Archambault moved that when speeches were delivered in French, they should be translated on the spot and be made available for inclusion in the earliest edition of Hansard published. At present, the English translation of French speeches is not available for a considerable period till the revised edition of Hansard is published.

On Thursday, Mr. Ballantyne made a statement about naval policy. He announced the retirement of Admiral Kingsmill, and stated that the Government had decided to accept the offer of a light cruiser and two destroyers from the British Government to take the place of the celebrated *Niobe* and *Rainbow*, which will go to the scrap heap. He also announced that the Government had decided upon no permanent naval policy. Dr. Michael Clark curtly pointed out that

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while the Government had no policy they were content to discuss one with the British Admiralty.

Then Mr. Guthrie moved the second reading of the Dominion Franchise Act in a lengthy speech. Mr. Guthrie seldom favors the house with any oratory, but he is a speaker of more than average ability and makes a good impression on his audiences. He reviewed the history of the Dominion Franchise from the earliest days, and the attitude of the great political chieftains of the past upon the subject. In defending the creation of Federal lists by the Dominion, he pointed out that the Laurier Government, in 1908, passed legislation to establish federal lists. The Government had decided against putting the revision of the lists in judges' hands because they most solicitously did not wish "The judicial robes trailed through the political mire". Mr. King congratulated Mr. Guthrie upon "his exceptionally clear, lucid and comprehensive statement". Some of Mr. King's followers are inclined to think that, like Mr. Rodolphe Lemieux, he bandies compliments too freely to be an effective leader of an opposition. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Premier of Great Britain, from 1906 to 1908, gave it as his opinion that the leader of an opposition or for that matter of any political party should not be on anything but terms of distant friendship with his political opponents. If he was too intimate socially with them, it militated against his power of public criticism, for it is impossible to attack with ferocious vigor a man with whom one has been dining the previous night. Mr. King again dilated on what is now a favorite theme of his, the necessity of restoring confidence in the system of representative government and welcomed the new franchise act as a means to that end. He congratulated the Government on wiping out a series of franchise acts which, he said, quoting Mr. A. K. Maclean, constituted "a blot upon our national career". His main objection was to the retention of the system of enumerators which he declared had resulted in the omission of thousands of names in recent elections and had just been abandoned by the Ontario Government. Ano-

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ther fault was that the preparation of the lists was not to be commenced till the writs were issued. This meant that candidates, when they should be concentrating their energies on discussing the issues and setting their views thereon before the electors, would find a large portion of their time occupied in seeing that names of their supporters were not left off. In the cities, the lists need not be furnished till four days before the election, which gives little chance for a candidate to see that they are reasonably complete and leaves room for all kinds of irregularities and mistakes. In his opinion, the Government should restrict the work of enumeration as much as possible and wherever practicable take lists which are approved and accepted locally or provincially. He also pointed out the enormous increase in the cost of elections. The contest of 1896 cost \$197,103, that of 1911, \$507,353, and that of 1917, no less than \$1,678,139. Mr. King said he was sad at heart when he contemplated the provision in the Act which allowed electors, or pseudo-electors possibly, to come to the polling booth even if their name was left off, take an oath and record their suffrage just as if they had been registered with all formality. However apart from these blemishes, Mr. King found little to take exception to in the bill and hoped that even these flaws would be removed. It was a moderate and reasonable speech and rang the deathknell of any possibility of an exciting controversy over the bill. Mr. Pardee followed his leader. It was his first important speech of the session and he devoted a large part of it to condemning the efforts of certain individuals and bodies to keep alive the fires of racial and religious strife. He pleaded that old sores should not be kept alive by restrictions against the full privileges of citizenship being imposed on any class of people. Above all things, Canada needed people, and men and women of other races would not come to Ca-

nada unless they were assured that they would have a voice in the nation's affairs. "I say," he said, "that no country can prosper or become great or develop its potential wealth without people." To make immigrants wait ten years for naturalization was in his opinion an incomprehensible policy. Mr. Pardee wears the air of a disappointed man. He was almost the first to leave the Unionist Coalition and he probably expected to receive a warmer welcome from his Liberal brethren than he received. Many of them showed no disposition to kill the fattened calf for the returning prodigal and he has had to take a comparatively back seat in the councils of his party. He is also threatened with U. F. O. opposition in his constituency and it is unlikely that he will return to Parliament after the next election. He has considerable political shrewdness but has scarcely grasped the fact that entirely new political conditions have developed since 1914, and that the old shibboleths and principles no longer apply. On this occasion, he made a distinctly liberal speech.

Anything at all liberal in tone is sure to arouse the ire of Dr. Edwards, of Frontenac, who is one of the most hardened reactionaries in the House. Dr. Edwards is not without cleverness of a kind, but he has a nasty temper and a nasty tongue and a unique facility for stirring up unpleasantness and trouble. He is a sort of parliamentary mercenary who is put up by the Government to state extreme views in order that they themselves by declining to cater for them in their entirety may get credit for amazing moderation. Dr. Edwards launched a venomous assault upon Austrians and Germans and raked up various charges against Quebec members, and soon got into an unseemly altercation which resulted in the interference of the Speaker. But the French members were soon beyond the mood of giving Dr. Edwards a decent hearing and he brought his tirade to a rather abrupt termination. Mr. McMaster would not attempt to "answer bitter words with bitter words", but dealt with the general need of reconciliation between nations. He objected to the deprivation of the right to vote which this bill brings to many Orientals on the Pacific Coast who are fully naturalized British subjects. Then followed the best speech of the day and perhaps of the session from Mr. W. B. Euler.

Mr. Euler owed his election in 1917 as a result of a sense of ill-treatment which was harbored by

the German descended population of North Waterloo, and his was the only seat won in Ontario by the Liberals. He has not played any meteoric part in the House but has shown repeated evidence of parliamentary capacity and has ventured to differ with his party on more than one occasion; he openly for instance espoused the cause of public ownership when most of the opposition were sidestepping it. To most members of parliament there comes in the course of their career some special opportunity; sometimes they use and sometimes they miss it. Mr. Euler's chance came on Thursday and he did not miss it. He presented the case against certain disfranchising clauses of the bill with great skill and power and his speech had the effect of altering the governmental attitude. While he was speaking, Ministers were seen to confer together, and on the following day, Mr. Meighen made a statement which, despite a strange obscurity of phraseology, practically conceded the validity of the criticisms of Mr. Euler, and promised the acceptance of an amendment. Mr. Euler spoke with studied moderation and absence of passion or sense of grievance; he did not ask for favors to people of his race but he pleaded that the ancient traditions of British justice and fair play be maintained. His main point was that reading the Naturalization Act in conjunction with the Franchise Act thousands of people who have lived in Canada many years, but have omitted to secure personal naturalization, relying on the naturalization of their fathers or husbands, will be deprived of the franchise. His own mother, who had lived in Canada sixty years, would be disfranchised. In some families, the younger children, who had been born in Canada, would be able to vote while their older brothers and sisters, who came as children to this country, would be voteless. He quoted an impressive list of soldiers with German names from his own county who had fallen in the war and pointed out that during the war there were only seven internments from the whole of Kitchener. He reminded Sir George Foster of his pleas for tolerance in the debate on the Address and told the House that "kindness and trust and charity are infinitely more powerful than the degrading influences of suspicion—an influence which is exemplified in the bill before us today." If there have been more brilliant feats of eloquence this session, there has been no more effective speech.

It was backed up by Mr. Levi

Thompson and Dr. Michael Clark, from the progressive benches, and Dr. Clark made a splendid plea for liberality of thought and action in the matter. He considered that the disfranchising clauses marred what was otherwise a good bill, and exhorted the House to get rid of the "war mind", which, he said, still possessed Dr. Edwards. He deprecated any attempt to create strife between "those who are called alien enemies and our soldiers in the late war" and asked the Cabinet to rise to the occasion and allow "the larger logic and the better spirit" to prevail with them. Mr. H. A. Mackie, a Unionist member from East Edmonton, assailed the bill vigorously from the Government benches and declared the disfranchising clauses were a stain upon the Dominion of Canada. He gave some interesting facts about the services of Ukrainians from Alberta in the war, and promised hostility in committee to the objectionable clauses.

On Friday, the debate was resumed. Mr. Meighen's explanation already referred to was hard to understand, and the Minister seemed to have laid aside his usual clarity and conciseness. Mr. Fielding wanted the local municipal lists to be taken as the basis for Dominion elections as much as possible. Mr. W. H. White delivered one of his racy homely speeches. Mr. Thomas Foster was full of prejudice and spite and Mr. Cannon was both suspicious and critical of the Government's intentions. Mr. Jacobs spoke very well and showed up some amusing absurdities in the bill. Under it, if the late Duchess of Connaught had been alive, she would have had no vote, but her cook or housemaid, if she had come from Georgetown, in British Guiana, would have the franchise.

The Bill was read a second time and went into committee where some desultory discussion took place. Some time was also spent on discussing questions affecting Indians in B. C. and elsewhere.

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Dignity of Labor

THERE is a widespread idea that it is more dignified and important to be an office or professional worker than a manual worker. The schoolroom largely propagates this idea. There is little attempt in the schoolroom to show that tradesmen do useful services requiring knowledge and skill often far in excess of that required by office or professional workers.

It is incomparably better to be a first-class plumber or machinist, or waist-maker or cook, than a routine invoice checker or a "business college" stenographer who cannot spell or punctuate properly. The office and professional workers' market is glutted with incompetents and nonentities of both sexes who fancy themselves a "cut above" the non-office workers who are earning more money than they, and who are doing well a task that needs more intelligence and initiative, and is bringing more benefit to the community.

But even where there is educational quality, why should aspirations always be directed towards making use of it in office or professional work? We all know lawyers who might have been better bricklayers, school teachers who might have been better coat pressers, journalists who might have been better carpenters, doctors who are positive dangers as doctors, yet who might have been excellent plumbers.

A boy with a High School education is a better plasterer and citizen than if he left school in the fourth grade and became a plasterer of necessity. A man with a University education might be a notable acquisition to the police force, and a serious loss to society as a real estate agent or a dispenser in a drug store.

Dignity, importance, usefulness of non-office, non-professional, work, have been so much ignored, that their values are distorted, and result in a condition of the labor market which is unsound economically and in its other relations to the best interests of the social fabric and the individual.

K. C.

Public Use of Public Schools

THE Board of Education of Smith's Falls, Ont., has granted to the Local of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association permission to use Central School on one evening a week for Association purposes. The members of the Board are to be congratulated on their vision of the schools as social and citizenship centres for adults as well as for children, and the officers of the Local are to be congratulated on securing such suitable premises for their educational and non-partisan political work.

Ontario generally seems to be more advanced than Quebec in the matter of allowing use of public schools in the evenings. In Montreal the use of schools was recently refused to citizens trying to organize protests against profiteering landlords, and the directors of the People's Forum were refused use of one of the finest school assembly halls in the city, a hall that is rarely used, even by the pupils.

K. C.

Profession and Practice

PART of the policy of the Montreal Herald, as declared at the top of its editorial column every day, is that the paper is a "special medium for promoting social justice, to work for progress and reform."

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A SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW FOR QUEBEC?

(Continued from page 4.)

low this year thus leaving more and more the schools of our province to be taught by the untrained, the novice, the insufficiently educated. In the words of Dr. Parmalee, Secretary of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction (Quebec) "We are face to face with national calamity if we are going to give the task (moral training — a part of the whole task of the teacher) over to untrained people."

To overcome these conditions, to staff our present schools with trained teachers, to attract the flower of our young manhood and womanhood into the profession will require a very great increase in the expenditure for public education. This will be true even to maintain our present status: but merely to maintain our present situation is to be out-distanced by every other province and country. We must provide funds for enlarging and improving our schools for increasing the members and improving the qualifications of our trained teachers.

Whence are these funds to come? They can come only from local taxation and from Provincial and Dominion Revenues. There is no other source.

The State of Maine in the year 1907 gave from Provincial Funds, 34 per cent. of the total amount voted for public education in the state. Ten years later, the contribution from the state funds had risen to 60 per cent. of the total.

In 1907 in this Province we contributed 13 per cent. of the total voted for public education from the provincial revenues. In 1917, the provincial contribution had risen to 17 per cent.

A province so strong in its financial position must if it is to take education seriously, contribute much more generously to its support, in order that the opportunities provided may be more equally distributed throughout the province.

The foregoing has demonstrated to some extent our situation as to school attendance, and the relative amount of schooling obtained, as well as our needs as to teachers and funds.

What are we going to do about it? This is the all important question.

There is little use in decrying school authorities, their hands are tied to a great extent because of the lack of public support. There needs to be organized a great public movement that will make education a matter of first importance to the legislature and the government: that will ensure educational advance along all lines.

Where is the name of the organization with vision and with power to get this thing under way? The time is auspicious! The need is great! Have we the man?

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CIVIC GOVERNMENT

(Contributed.)

ALTHOUGH the composition of the Charter Commission, which is to draw up a new scheme of government for the Island of Montreal, appears to be fairly representative, there is one lack in it to which so far attention has not been called. Commerce is well represented by a number of public bodies; education has its representatives; labor has its nominees; proprietors' and tenants' leagues have theirs, as have also various municipalities concerned. But what of all those institutions which minister to the sick, the poor and the unfortunate of the community, the group of hospitals, homes and societies, which come under the category of social welfare bodies? It may be that as far as the Catholic institutions are concerned, there is no desire to have them represented, as these are conducted on a religious basis; but in respect to the Protestant institutions and societies, there would seem to be good ground for a claim to be represented in any scheme of civic government. It may be urged that indirectly such institutions would be represented, inasmuch as many of the leading business men of the city who are on the commission on behalf of such bodies as the Board of Trade or other public bodies, are presidents of or active members of these philanthropic institutions or societies. Nevertheless, it would seem desirable in this day, in view of the amount of money involved and the number of human beings touched through these organizations, that they should have their direct representative. What is wanted on the governing body of Montreal is a man who has an intimate knowledge, not of one institution, but of the whole subject of social welfare as it applies to a great city, a man who can pass an expert opinion not only upon the desirability of making a grant to an institution but who can advise the council on all matters arising in connection with the social welfare of the city. The body already exists which should be so represented. The Federation of Montreal Social Agencies takes in thirty-four important institutions, such as our leading hospitals, the Charity Organization Society, and various other bodies which are studying and working for the welfare of the sick, the poor and the unfortunate of the population. This is the first attempt to bring all these agencies to work together for all common ends, and it would be of great benefit to the city council to have its representative at the table. A man such as the Director of Social Work of McGill, or the Community Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., would fill the bill.

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A TARIFF QUESTION FOR THE FARMERS

(Continued from page 3.)

on articles manufactured in that country. Then we come up to Congress and we talk with our Congressmen about it, and they at once tell us that it is a very complicated question, and when we approach some senators and some congressmen they tell us: 'Well, you do not know what you are talking about, because if you go to reduce the tariff on articles shipped from Germany and France and Austria and other continental countries of Europe, England will kick about it, and does not England take more of your beef, hogs, and other agricultural products than any other European country?' We say: 'Yes; we guess it does.' They say: 'Well, are you not afraid that you will hurt trade with England if you reduce the tariff on articles from Germany and France and other continental countries of Europe? Would not England kick about it and quit taking your agricultural products, and would you not be worse off than when you started in?' We say: 'We do not know; it is a very complicated question. That is what we have you in Washington for.' If he is a Republican he says: 'We cannot do anything because the people here in the East control the matter.' And if he is a Democrat, he says: 'The Republicans are in the majority, and I cannot do anything'; and the result is that we people in the West have a pretty hard kick coming against somebody, but we do not know exactly who it is.

"We pass resolutions as long as the moral law, and we send them here. They tell us that they are put in the waste basket, and I suppose that they are, although we have no proof that they reach here, except for the regularity of the mails.

"Now, we are willing to admit that this is a complicated and difficult question. We think it is quite important to determine whether or not we shall be excluded from shipping dressed beef into France by reason of a high tariff on brass jewellery. I have been told that has a good deal to do with the matter. I do not know. There is not a single man in the West who knows. The farmer does not know a blessed thing about it, but somebody tells him that is true. We have been depending on Congress for a long time about this, and have been kicking about it, and nobody has paid any attention to it that we can discover; and now we come here asking Congress to at least deal fairly in this matter. They say: 'Mr. Farmer, and Mr. Stockman, and Mr. Manufacturer — out in the West, at least — you do not know much about it; you are not informed on this; but there are people who are, and we confer with

them, and they tell us what to do, and we find out from.' Well, people say: 'We have just a little bit of suspicion that you go to those who are most interested about this thing when you try to find out what to do, and that in the doing of it we have been put in the soup, because we find that we cannot send out cattle and dressed beef or hogs that we raise to the continental countries of Europe, and we would like to do that.' So, these gentlemen, representing various organizations, come here at their own expense — none of them running for office, and none of them could get office if they did run for it — to have the pleasure — and they treat it as a privilege, Mr. Speaker, — of asking Congress to appoint a commission through some method which will be independent and fair, and which we can trust, to see what ought to be done and to report it back to Congress.

"Now, that looks fair. It looks as if this Congress ought to be willing to have a commission appointed. Select people without regard to their politics and in the hope that they have none, and appoint them to investigate the subject to inform themselves, to get knowledge, to do it impartially, and then report to Congress, in order that we may not keep up this dispute as to whether somebody up here is right or whether somebody there is right. We are willing to submit the matters to the fair judgment of an impartial commission, and on what ground can Congress object to appointing one? They say, 'It will not do any good; we will appoint a Congressional committee to do it.' I want to say that the Congressional committee men down in my State and in Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and Missouri are extremely busy in another sort of business just after Congress adjourns, as you will observe a little later on. They have not the time. It is impossible. You might as well say that Congressional committees can regulate the railway rates of the country. The tariff proposition, as it confronts, affecting our foreign trade, our industries at home, and the vitality of this country as an industrial nation, is as complicated a

subject as we can find. Why should it not be submitted to a committee appointed by virtue of the law which you enact, appointed by the party in power, to determine fairly what ought to be done, and to report it to Congress?

"Whether Congress adopts its commendation or not, we could at least get one fair shake where we knew the men were not influenced by the interests that happen to surround them. There is no denying the fact, Mr. Speaker, I know, that when a man lives in a manufacturing district where all his people are strongly in favor of high protective tariff, if he comes to this Congress he must be in favor of that; and if he lives in a farming district, where they are in favor of a revision of the tariff, or perhaps a low tariff on some articles and a high tariff on wool and hides, I say he has to be in favor of that or he cannot get here. So we realize that with the multitude of businesses and the multitude of thought, it is impossible to get perfectly fair and independent expressions, however much the members of Congress desire to do it.

"Now, they tell us that this is not needed in the country; that the country does not demand a tariff commission; that we do not know. We are much like the old negro who went to hear his master deliver a lecture on agnosticism. He waited at the schoolhouse door until his master came out, and then the old man said, 'Mose, how did you like the lecture?' 'Well', he said, 'I guess I liked it pretty well, but,' he said, 'there is just one thing you said that I thought you ought to have said a little different.' 'What was that, Mose?' 'You know you said there was no Holy Ghost, and there was no heartfelt religion.' 'How do you think I ought to have said that, Mose?' 'You ought to have said, not that you knows of.' (Laughter). There is a public sentiment west of the Mississippi River which is strong, which is now demanding a fair opportunity to have this matter investigated, determined, and reported to Congress. We make no political threats, because we do not know how we will vote; but we do want Congress to do this as a

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matter of fairness, quite independent of politics, and we hope, Mr. Speaker, that you will give the matter fair consideration, as we believe you will, and determine whether or not we are right. We do not think that anybody can be hurt if it is done, unless somebody who has such an interest in the matter that he ought, in behalf of the rest of the people of the United States, to be hurt. Somebody must always be hurt by any regulating laws, of course. The idea is to do the greatest amount of good to the greatest number, but to do it presently and during the present generation. That is what we have come to ask and to have done.'

In view of this astonishing evidence, is it not remarkable that the farmer should be irreconcilable toward a tariff board, the objects and aims of which are identical with the United States Board for which a million farmers clamored so vociferously? How are we to account for the stubborn attitude of the agriculturalist on this question except by his ignorance of the facts? Certainly the agricultural position suffers severely in contrast with the broader-minded and far more generous position taken both by labor and by industry on this important question.

There is a growing and very powerful movement in Canada supporting the idea that this great question of tariff and schedules should be handled with hard-headed, commonsense business methods co-operating with the best economic brains the Dominion can muster through the medium of a tariff board. We believe that a commission or board should be created with powers to investigate not only the cost, but the application of the costs of production, transportation, points of consumption, efficiency of labor and manufacturing equipment, competitive conditions in other countries, so as to increase foreign trade. We believe that the greatest good will result to the entire Dominion, to labor, the manufacturer, the farmer and the people generally if we take the politics out of the tariff and institute a board under the Minister of Finance, organized on a business basis for efficiency—and efficiency only.

Unless the Government heeds our cry for reform in this direction, unless the farmer produces some sound argument substantiating the position which we consider strangely discordant with his attitude on other national questions, then we shall search out the reasons with the minutest care and thunder them across the country at the next election.

(P. S. I beg to acknowledge my indebtedness to Walter S. Johnson, Barrister of Montreal, a student of tariff matters for many years, who has been kind enough to place much valuable information in my hands.)

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Service as the Social Law

Mr. J. A. Woodward, President of Fifth Sunday Meeting Association, Guest of Honor at Manufacturers' Association Luncheon.

(Gazette, March 26.)


For the first time on record, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at their luncheon, yesterday, had a representative of the labor interests as guest of honor, Mr. J. A. Woodward, president of the 5th Sunday Association, and president of the Montreal Brotherhood of Trainmen, who gave an address on "Service as the Social Law." Mr. Woodward, in his address, made his motto "Get Together," and urged that both employers and employees should continue to meet on a harmonious basis, so as to carry on the work already begun for the post-war harmonization of the interests of the capitalistic employers and the workers.

There was a large attendance at the luncheon, including the Dominion Council of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and the Provincial Council, with a number of the provincial members. The chair was taken by Mr. T. P. Howard, Dominion president, and with him at the guest table were Messrs. Jos. Perras, Quebec; Lt.-Col. W. J. Sadler, chairman of the local branch of the C.M.A.; J. A. Woodward, J. E. Walsh, general manager of the C.M.A., Toronto; B. J. Coghlin, S. B. Parsons, and a number of officers from Toronto and other points.

In introducing the guest, Mr. Howard said that the members of the C.M.A. were glad to welcome a leader of the labor interests, who had shown the desire for co-operation between employers and employees in the interests of industry and the country.

Mr. Woodward, in opening, contrasted the present position of labor with that of a decade ago. Ten years ago, he said, he would have been regarded as a sort of Daniel in the lions' den approaching a group of manufacturers. Now as a representative of labor he had been a friend of leading manufacturers and statesmen, and had been welcomed by both, to work with them for the upbuilding of a broader and better Canada. Labor and employers might use different roads, he said, but they were both working to the same end. The day was coming, he considered, when manufacturers and employees must meet together to talk over general affairs and get inspiration which would help to overcome the present spirit of unrest, that was invading Canada.

Mr. Woodward gave a description of the work of the 5th Sunday Association, which, he said, was working throughout Canada for a better understanding between the employing and employed classes in Canada. Speaking to the Manufacturers' Association, he complained



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that Quebec province was the only section of this continent where the school-rooms could not be obtained for the use of the meetings of his association, which were of so great an educational value, and whose meetings took place in the evenings, when they would not interfere with school work.

View on Tariff

As to the tariff, Mr. Woodward said the labor organizations he represented strongly supported the idea of a permanent scientific tariff commission, on which the labor interests and employers had been unanimous, showing that the association had been of value to the

country. While the farmers of the United States had supported such a commission, he said that nothing had been heard from the farmers of Canada, and he rather criticized this lack of action, remarking: "To my mind, it would be suicide to make changes in the tariff without thorough investigation, done in a practical way. (Applause.) We hope that some day the farmers will support us in seeing the wisdom of a scientific advisory commission, not to take the tariff out of politics, but to take politics out of the tariff." (Loud applause.)

From this, Mr. Woodward proceeded to discuss education, arguing for equal educational rights

for all, on the ground that any social structure which did not have a comprehensive system of education, so as to give equal opportunities for the youth of the country, would be a failure. This, he said, would avoid the evil of child labor, and he was loudly applauded when he demanded that a more adequate scale of pay should be given teachers in this province. The wealth of the people, he said, had been shown by the war not to exist in bank balances, but in the brain and brawn of the people, and there should be training that would give the whole people a chance. "I stand," he said, "for free and compulsory education from the bottom to the top. We must afford such education that every boy shall have a chance to become a citizen we may be proud of." (Applause.)

As to the housing problem, Mr. Woodward thought the Government should take hold of it, so as to see that every worker should have a chance to get a decent home. Rents were soaring to impossible prices, while the race was being discouraged by landlords who refused to rent flats to tenants with children, which was an encouragement to sterility.

With regard to the labor movement, Mr. Woodward said it had been recognized officially by the British Government, which had saved a revolution in that country, while in Canada during the war the labor interests had so aided matters that there were practically no strikes, and every effort made to secure victory. He advocated a Board of Adjustment in cases of labor difficulties but declared that the labor unions "will never stand for compulsory arbitration, because we know its dangers."

A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. S. R. Parsons, who, while not agreeing with all Mr. Woodward had said, cordially agreed with his idea that the time had come when capital and labor should get together for the common good of industry and the country. The vote of thanks to Mr. Woodward was carried by a unanimous standing vote, with applause.

Etiquette First

Mother was very keen on correct deportment, and never lost a chance of instilling it into Mabel.

"There's one important thing, my dear," she said. "You must never point at anything."

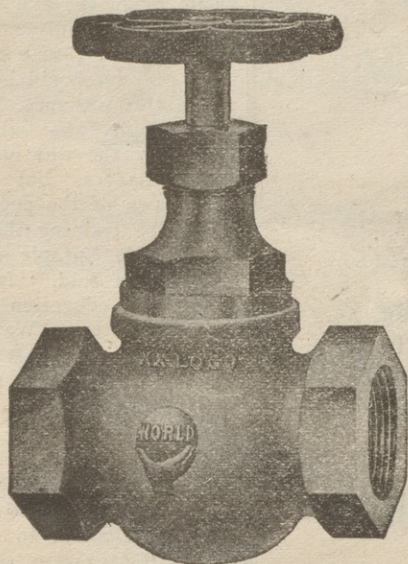
"But, mama," objected the girl, "suppose I am shopping, and don't know the name of a thing?"

"Then let the assistant show you everything in stock until he comes to the article you desire."—**St. Augustine Record.**

A railway collision has been caused in Paris as the result of a train leaving the station two minutes too early. Thank heaven this could not happen on our English lines.—**London Punch.**

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\$45,000,000 Thefts from Cars Shown

Booty Double That in Any Pre-War Year

Wholesale looting of merchandise in transit on the railroads of the United States caused a loss of approximately \$45,000,000 in 1919, according to United States Railroad Administration statistics made public recently.

This is estimated to be more than double the losses sustained in any pre-war year, but it is pointed out that the increased cost of the commodities stolen, roughly estimated to average 85 per cent, must be taken into consideration when comparing the losses in the days of low prices with losses now. Nevertheless there has been a steadily increasing number of packages stolen, and the organizations combatting the thieves have met an increased ingenuity in diverting goods from their owners.

A technique of robbery has been developed so highly that the methods of "master thieves" are similar in the United States, England, France, Italy and Argentina, according to a recent report of the United States Chamber of Commerce in Argentina. Detectives, however, are inclined to discredit that organization's belief that a "widespread international organization" is at work stealing merchandise.

Substitution is the usual method used by the thieves. Sometimes boxes supposed to contain velvets are found at their destination to be filled with calico or other cheaper grades of cloth, but, as a rule, waste paper is found. These are referred to as "concealed losses" by railway men, and are especially difficult to trace, as the shipment leaves and arrives apparently in good condition, and it is almost impossible to discover at what point the theft occurred.

The silk industry has been one of the most severely hit in the last year, and so great has the risk become that the Railroad Administration has been considering excluding raw silks from the privilege of freight transportation by rail. The Merchants' Association of New York, through its traffic bureau, has protested against such an exclusion, advocating some less radical measure to minimize or prevent the theft of silk in transit.

How Do They Get It? z

"Sometimes," said Senator Sordum, "I am tempted to believe in ouija-board business."

"Getting superstitious?"

"Not exactly. But there must be some supernatural way for all these orators to have found exactly what George Washington would have said under these circumstances."—Washington Star.

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SEDITION DEFINITION

Discussion at Ottawa Trades and Labor Meeting

A circular from the executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada with the reply of the Government to the deputation which waited upon it in January, started a discussion on the question of sedition at a meeting of the Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Association, on March 19. Delegate McDowell thought that labor should have a clear definition of the meaning of sedition and seditious conspiracy.

He also remarked that the present Government should go out of office, as it had fulfilled its function of a war government.

Delegate Draper, secretary of the Trades and Labor Congress, replied that the executive of the Trades and Labor Congress was considering Justice Metcalfe's address to the jury in the Russell case. There was no law, he said, covering sedition or seditious conspiracy in Britain or in Canada. He questioned whether it would be wisdom to have such a law. He stated that the present Government had paid more attention to labor as represented by the Trades and Labor Congress than had ever been the case before. In regard to the reply in question, he said it was the first time that any government had taken up each specific question and given a written reply in unmistakable language. As for a bill of rights for labor, he did not know of any five or six members who could submit a bill and say they represented labor.

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A HINT TO A POET

He writes a rondeau to a rose
In gay poetic mood,
He has no rose and if he had
"Twould do him little good.
Honor I say should always go
Where it is really due.
You'd think a bard would sometimes
write

A sonnet to a stew.

—Kansas City Journal.



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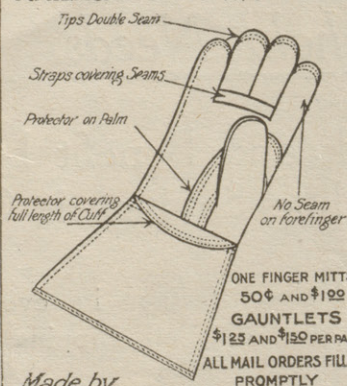
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Reasons for Matrimony

Some fellows marry poor girls to settle down. Others marry rich girls to settle up.—The Jester.

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